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By: William Lim
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FILED WITH THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS
ON February 24 2010
J. Michael Stauffer
Executive Director

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF:	:	Administrative Action
	:	
PAULA KONNOR, PSY.D.	:	CONSENT ORDER OF
a/k/a PAULA JORN, PSY.D.,	:	SETTLEMENT
	:	
AN UNLICENSED PERSON	:	

This matter was opened to the State Board of Psychological Examiners ("Board") upon receipt of information that Paula Konnor, Psy.D., a/k/a Paula Jorn, Psy.D., was engaged in the practice of psychology in New Jersey without a valid license, under the trade name "Rumson Wellness," located at 112 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, New Jersey 07760. An investigation was undertaken that included an inspection of Dr. Konnor's Rumson office on December 9, 2009, and records of eleven patients were received via subpoena. Dr. Konnor was represented during this investigation by Joseph Potashnik, Esq.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board has considered the investigative reports prepared by the Enforcement Bureau, Division of Consumer Affairs, including the eleven patient records received by subpoena, as well correspondence by counsel.

The Board finds that although Dr. Konnor has a currently valid license to practice psychology in New York, her authorization to practice in New Jersey expired in 2001. At that time, Dr. Konnor held a three-year supervised practice permit, number TP963-0015, but failed to renew it or otherwise maintain her eligibility to practice in New Jersey. Dr. Konnor also held a license to practice marriage and family therapy from the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, license number PC01983, which expired in 2000 and was not renewed.

The Board finds that in or about February 2009, Dr. Konnor began practicing psychology in New Jersey without a license at Rumson Wellness, an office and practice that she shares with Dean Tomasello, M.D. The Board finds that over the course of 2009, Dr. Konnor treated approximately eighteen patients at Rumson Wellness, including several patients who she referred to Dr. Tomasello for psychopharmaceutical treatment. The Board accepts the representation made by Dr. Konnor's attorney concerning her personal financial situation.

ORDER

In lieu of formal civil or administrative proceedings in this matter, Dr. Konnor has agreed to cease her unlicensed practice of psychology in the State of New Jersey and other terms as set forth in this consent order. The Board finds the terms of this consent order to be adequately protective of the public health, safety and welfare.

IT IS, therefore, on this 24th day of February, 2010,
ORDERED THAT:

1. Paula Konnor, Psy.D., is reprimanded for unlicensed practice of psychology in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:14B-1 et seq.

2. Dr. Konnor shall immediately cease and desist from the unlicensed practice of psychology in New Jersey. Dr. Konnor shall adhere to the procedures set forth in the attached "Directives Regarding Future Activities of Board Psychologists Who Have Been Suspended/Revoked and Use of the Professional Premises," adopted by the Board and incorporated by reference herein.

3. Dr. Konnor shall be ineligible for licensure as a psychologist in New Jersey for a period of five years, beginning on the effective date of this consent order.

4. Dr. Konnor shall be assessed a civil penalty of \$40,000.00, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25, payable in equal monthly installments of \$666.66 over sixty months, with the first payment due on March 1, 2010. At her option, Dr. Konnor may

accelerate payment of any amount outstanding. However, if any installment becomes more than thirty days past due, the Board, in its sole discretion, may declare Dr. Konnor in default and demand accelerated payment of all amounts outstanding. The Board, in its sole discretion, may file a Certificate of Debt for the amounts due under this consent order, and the Certificate shall be discharged upon payment in full of all amounts required under this consent order. Payments shall be made by certified check or money order payable to the "State Board of Psychological Examiners" and delivered to the Executive Director of the Board.

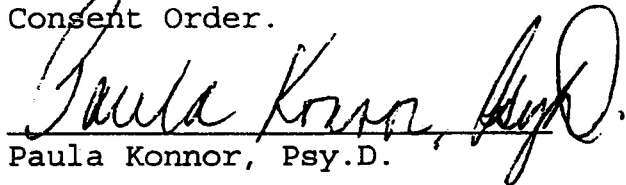
5. Dr. Konnor agrees that during the period of her ineligibility for licensure as a psychologist in New Jersey, she will not seek licensure in New Jersey for any other mental health profession including alcohol and drug counseling, marriage and family counseling, professional or rehabilitation counseling, and certified psychoanalysis.

6. Dr. Konnor shall, upon application to the Board for licensure, complete a psychological evaluation to include testing for then-current impairment due to alcohol or drug abuse, to demonstrate her fitness to practice psychology. Dr. Konnor agrees to release the record of such evaluation to the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

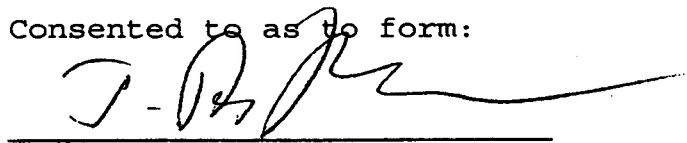
By: Nancy E. Friedman Ph.D.
Nancy E. Friedman, Ph.D.
Board President

I have read the within Consent Order. I understand the Consent Order and I agree to be bound by its terms and conditions. I hereby consent to the entry of this Consent Order.


Paula Konnor, Psy.D.

Dated:

Consented to as to form:


Joseph Potashnik, Esq.
Attorney for Dr. Konnor

Dated: 2/4/2010

B. Paula Konnor, PsyD (aka Paula Jorn)

The Committee reviewed information regarding Mrs. Konner's request for license reinstatement. An administrative record search reveals that Ms. Konnor did not pay the initial license fee for her licensed professional counselor or licensed psychology credential and a license was never issued. The Board of Psychological Examiners has requested an Enforcement Bureau investigation. The Committee determined to table the matter until review of the Psychology Board report.



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
Enforcement Bureau
124 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



PAULA T. DOW
Attorney General

SHARON M. JOYCE
Acting Director

MAR 22 2010

Michael Walker, Executive Director
Board of Psychological Examiners

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 45022
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6300

RE: Paula Konnor, Psy. D, "Clinical Psychologist"
A.K.A. Paula C. Jorn
Not Professionally Licensed in New Jersey
Assignment #43-20-09-1378

Dear Mr. Walker:

Enclosed is a copy of a Report of Investigation, which is forwarded for Board review.

Please advise if the Board desires any further investigation of the matter by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

Edward Tumminello, Chief
Enforcement Bureau

sa:V

cc: Jeri Warhaftig, DAG (w/o exhibits)
William Lim, DAG (w/o exhibits)
Division of Law

William Roeder, Executive Director (w/exhibits) (via 10-6539-08-2441)
Board of Medical Examiners

Charles Janousek (w/exhibits)
NJ Division of Criminal Justice
Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

Elaine DeMars, Executive Director (w/exhibits)
Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners

2010 MAR 26 P 4:05
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MARRIAGE
& FAMILY THERAPY

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ENFORCEMENT BUREAU**

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

TO: Board of Psychological Examiners Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners	ASSIGNMENT #43-20-09-1378	DATE: 3/18/10	PERIOD: 07/08/09 THRU: 02/24/10
SUBJECT(S):		BY: Leida Martinez	

Paula Konnor, Psy. D., "Clinical Psychologist"
A.K.A. Paula C. Jorn
License #PC 0198300 (Marriage & Family Therapy
Professional Counselor/Expired 11/30/00)
Psychology (Three Year Permit/Expired 10/29/01)
Not Professionally Licensed in New Jersey
Rumson Wellness (Office)
112 Avenue of Two Rivers
Rumson, New Jersey 07760
Telephone #(732) 224-9949 (O)
10 Avenue of Two Rivers (Residence)
Rumson, New Jersey 07760
Telephone #(732) 822-0425 (C)
DOB: 09/30/57
SS #399-64-4244
NJDL: K6422 61963 59576
New York License #017554 (Psychologist)

REFERENCE:

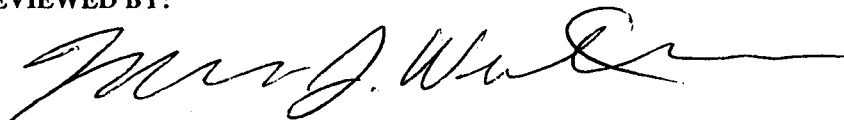
My memorandum, dated June 30, 2009, to Edward Tumminello, Chief, Enforcement Bureau, through Michael J. Westenberger, Supervising Investigator (S.I.), Section II.

ALLEGATIONS:

1. Unlicensed practice of Psychology in the State of New Jersey.
2. Unlicensed practice of Professional Counseling/Marriage and Family Therapy, in the State of New Jersey.

TYPIST: SA

REVIEWED BY:



INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED:

1. While conducting investigative activity regarding another assignment (File #10-6539-08-2441), it was revealed that the SUBJECT was allegedly practicing psychology and providing psychological counseling services to patients, without being licensed, at Rumson Wellness, 112 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, New Jersey. The SUBJECT's "live-in partner" and practice partner was identified as Dean M. Tomasello, M.D.
2. The Division of Consumer Affairs, State Board of Psychological Examiners records reflect that the SUBJECT has never, nor does she currently, hold a license to practice psychology in the State of New Jersey. Division of Consumer Affairs, State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, Professional Counselor Examiners Committee records reflect that the SUBJECT has never, nor does she currently hold a license to practice professional counseling in the State of New Jersey. According to the New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions, the SUBJECT does hold a valid license to practice psychology in the State of New York (License #017554).
3. During the period of October 8, 2009 through November 13, 2009, Inv. Heather Ollendorf made covert telephone contacts and office visits to the SUBJECT's practice location, Rumson Wellness, 112 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, New Jersey. The following is a summary of the covert activity conducted pursuant to this investigation. For more specific information, see Attachment #1 thru Attachment #4.

On October 8, 2009, Investigator (Inv.) Heather Ollendorf, acting in a covert capacity (Heather Moore), visited the SUBJECT's office and made an appointment with the SUBJECT for psychological services. The SUBJECT provided Inv. Ollendorf with a green and white business card which indicated in the front, "Rumson Wellness, destination transformation, Paula C. Konnor, Psy. D., Clinical Psychologist, Rumson Wellness, 112 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, NJ 07760, phone: 732-224-9949, fax: 732-224-9940, www.rumsonwellness.com: paulakonnor@rumsonwellness.com." The rear side indicated, "Paula C. Konnor, Psy. D., Psychological Evaluations; Testing for Diagnosis, Treatment and Referral, Adult, Child and Adolescent Counseling; Goal Oriented Treatment; Anxiety, Depression, ADHD, PTSD, Phobias; Custody Evaluation; Expert Testimony; Partnered with Medical Doctor to meet medication needs. Visa and Master Card accepted. Next Appointment _____." The SUBJECT advised Inv. Ollendorf that she could pay cash for her services and the fee would be between one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and one hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$175.00) per session. An appointment was scheduled with the SUBJECT for October 20, 2009.

On October 20, 2009, Inv. Ollendorf returned to the SUBJECT's office in a covert capacity and participated in a psychological counseling session with the SUBJECT. During this session, Inv. Ollendorf observed and obtained a green "Rumson Wellness" brochure which indicated inside, "Dr. Paula Konnor" is a "licensed clinical psychologist." Inv. Ollendorf completed forms regarding privacy laws and general patient information.

Inv. Ollendorf purported to the SUBJECT that she had been taking prescribed Zoloft (PLD) and Xanax (C-IV) CDS and had completed her medication. The SUBJECT subsequently advised Inv. Ollendorf that she could meet with Dean Tomasello, M.D. regarding her medications. The SUBJECT discussed Alcoholics Anonymous, meditation and how it would benefit her in coping and dealing with anxiety. The SUBJECT discussed issues regarding Inv. Ollendorf's husband and family history. At the conclusion of the session Inv. Ollendorf was introduced to Dr. Tomasello. An appointment was scheduled with the SUBJECT and Dean Tomasello, M.D., for October 29, 2009. Inv. Ollendorf paid one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) for the session, which was approximately one (1) hour in duration.

On October 26, 2009, Inv. Ollendorf contacted the SUBJECT's office in a covert capacity and rescheduled the October 29, 2009 appointment with the SUBJECT and Dean Tomasello, M.D., to November 5, 2009. On November 5, 2009 a representative of Rumson Wellness contacted Inv. Ollendorf (Heather Moore) and advised that the SUBJECT was sick and had to reschedule her appointment. Inv. Ollendorf kept her appointment with Dean Tomasello, M.D.

On November 5, 2009, while in a covert capacity, Inv. Ollendorf entered Rumson Wellness for a scheduled office examination by Dean Tomasello, M.D. Dr. Tomasello asked Inv. Ollendorf questions regarding her background, medical and family history. He then checked her blood pressure and heart rate. Dr. Tomasello discussed his medical background and stated that he now practices aesthetics and treats patients who have issues with anxiety and depression. Inv. Ollendorf discussed her (purported) medication regimen and informed him that she was taking Zoloft (PLD) and Xanax (C-IV) until her prescriptions expired. Dr. Tomasello issued a total of three (3) prescriptions to Inv. Ollendorf, as follows: Xanax 0.25mg #30, Zoloft 100mg #30 and laboratory analysis (CMP, CBC, TSH, LIPIDS). Inv. Ollendorf paid a fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) for the office visit.

On November 13, 2009, Inv. Ollendorf returned to the SUBJECT's office, in a covert capacity and participated in a psychological counseling session with the SUBJECT. A discussion commenced regarding the medications prescribed by Dean Tomasello, M.D., her anxiety levels and how she was coping. Inv. Ollendorf asked the SUBJECT about her

educational journey and expressed an interest in her field of study and profession. The SUBJECT stated that she completed her studies in the State of New York and was currently licensed as a psychologist in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. A detailed discussion regarding licensing ensued (see Attachment #4). Inv. Ollendorf paid a fee of one hundred and twenty-five (\$125.00) at the end of the session, which lasted approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. The diagnosis on the statement indicated "Adjustment Disorder." A detailed discussion regarding billing and insurance ensued. Inv. Ollendorf received a receipt (Statement of Physician Services), which indicated that she paid a fee of one hundred and seventy-five (\$175.00) for the session.

4. On November 5, 2009, while in a covert capacity, I observed from my vehicle, the premises located at 112 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, NJ (SUBJECT's office location). The building was a one (1) story white siding house with a black canvas awning in the front which indicated, "Rumson Wellness." Approximately three (3) feet from the front of the building was a green sign with white letters which indicated, "Rumson Wellness destination transformation." Adjacent to that was another green sign with white letters which indicated "732-224-9949, Dean M. Tomasello, M.D., Medical Aesthetics, Paula C. Konnor, Psy. D., Clinical Psychologist." Photographs were taken of the premises.
5. On November 18, 2009 and November 24, 2009, an online Internet search of the Rumson Wellness website identified the SUBJECT as a clinical psychologist. She is listed as providing Clinical Psychological services/Counseling (all ages), anxiety, depression, Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Attention-deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), phobias, psychological evaluations and goal oriented treatment. Dean M. Tomasello, M.D., is also referenced on the website.
6. A review of pharmacy prescription records regarding the SUBJECT revealed multiple CDS and PLD prescriptions issued/authorized by Dean Tomasello, M.D., over the approximate period of January 2007 through October 2009. Other practitioners have also issued CDS/PLD prescriptions to the SUBJECT, as reflected on the obtained pharmacy prescription records.

The pharmacy prescription records of the SUBJECT reflect that she was prescribed Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) (C-III) during the approximate period of October 13, 2008 through November 22, 2009. Suboxone is used in the treatment of opioid dependence.

7. On December 8, 2009, a Demand for Inspection of Books and Records was executed at Rumson Wellness, Rumson, NJ. Upon interview, the SUBJECT indicated the following:

The SUBJECT admitted that she was not licensed as a psychologist in New Jersey.

The SUBJECT also admitted that she was not licensed by the New Jersey Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, as a Professional Counselor.

The SUBJECT was asked if Dean Tomasello, M.D. was aware that she was not licensed as a psychologist in the State of New Jersey and she responded that he was not aware she was not licensed appropriately. The SUBJECT said Dr. Tomasello was aware she was applying for reciprocity. The SUBJECT, in describing her relationship with Dr. Tomasello indicated, "We live together."

The SUBJECT admitted that she was practicing psychology and providing psychological services to patients at Rumson Wellness, Rumson, NJ for approximately eight (8) months, counseling approximately ten (10) to twelve (12) patients per week.

The SUBJECT was questioned regarding her affiliation with Rumson Wellness and she responded that she rents/leases the building with her "fiancé, live-in partner" Dean Tomasello, M.D. Both the SUBJECT and Dr. Tomasello are listed as tenants on the lease. The SUBJECT indicated that the building was originally a beauty salon therefore she had to submit a proposal to the Rumson, NJ Planning Board in 2007 to use the building as a professional office space.

The SUBJECT stated that after she evaluated a patient if she felt they were in need of medications or psychotropic drugs she would refer them to Dr. Tomasello, who maintained his own medical records.

At approximately 11:10am, Dean M. Tomasello, M.D., entered the office and identified himself as Medical Director of Rumson Wellness. Dr. Tomasello indicated that he believed the SUBJECT was licensed in New Jersey. He indicated that at times they share patients and he prescribed typically psychotropic medications after evaluation. Dr. Tomasello indicated that he maintained separate medical records from the SUBJECT, although the SUBJECT has access to his files.

A review of patient psychological records at the SUBJECT's office was conducted. A subpoena for the psychological records of eleven (11) patients (including Heather Moore, covert name of Inv. Ollendorf) was issued to the SUBJECT.

8. On December 30, 2009, the subpoenaed psychological records were received and reviewed pursuant to this investigation. The majority of the records included a Client Fee Agreement and Attendance Policy, Rumson Wellness Notice of Health Information Privacy Practice (HIPPA) form, Statement of Physician Services (bill for services rendered that included diagnosis, codes and fees charged), Consent to Treat/Health Information Communication (HIPPA) and Client Fee Agreement and Attendance Policy form and progress notes. The majority of the progress notes contained general information regarding family issues and medical history, prior medications, billing information and referral consultations. Insurance company billing documentation/invoices were noted in some of the records. The diagnoses rendered for the patients included adjustment disorder, adjusted depression, anxiety, depression, and individual psychotherapy. The review of the previously referenced subpoenaed psychological records will be discussed in the Details portion of this Report of Investigation.
9. On February 24, 2010, an Administrative Action, Consent Order of Settlement was filed with the Board of Psychological Examiners. The Order reflects that pursuant to an investigation, information was received that the SUBJECT was engaging in the practice of psychology in New Jersey without a valid license, under the trade name "Rumson Wellness," located at 112 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, NJ.

In lieu of formal civil or administrative proceedings in this matter, the SUBJECT agreed to cease her unlicensed practice of psychology in New Jersey and other terms as set forth in the Consent Order. The SUBJECT was reprimanded for the unlicensed practice of psychology in New Jersey. The SUBJECT shall adhere to the procedures set forth in "Directions Regarding Future Activities of Board Psychologists Who Have Been Suspended/Revoked and Use of the Professional Premises." The SUBJECT shall be ineligible for licensure as a psychologist in New Jersey for a period of five (5) years. The SUBJECT was assessed a civil penalty of \$40,000.00. The SUBJECT, during the period of her ineligibility for licensure as a psychologist in New Jersey, will not seek licensure in New Jersey for other mental health professions including alcohol and drug counseling, marriage and family counseling, professional or rehabilitative counseling and Certified Psychoanalysis. The SUBJECT, upon application to the Board for licensure, will complete a psychological evaluation to include testing for then-current impairment due to alcohol or drug abuse, to demonstrate her fitness to practice psychology.